

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 08239

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, MPOL, SP
SUBJECT: SPANISH NATO ENTRY: ALLIED MANEUVER INVITATIONS

REF: STATE 226432 (DTG 070027Z SEP 78)(NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE TAKEN SOUNDINGS WITH DCMS OR POLADS OF ALL ALLIES FORMALLY LISTED AS PARTICIPATING IN DISPLAY DETERMINATION, AS WELL AS LUNS' CHEF DE CABINET, CONCERNING POSSIBLE INVITATION TO SPAIN TO OBSERVE THE NATO EXERCISE. WE NOTED THAT WE WERE OPEN AS TO FORMULA UNDER WHICH INVITATION MIGHT BE EXTENDED AND THAT ONE APPROACH MIGHT BE THROUGH THE VEHICLE OF A PERSONAL CINCSOUTH INVITATION. AT THE SAME TIME, WE URGED ALLIES PARTICIPATING IN MULTINATIONAL EXERCISES TO EXTEND INVITATIONS INDIVIDUALLY TO SPAIN GOING BEYOND THE CSCE CONTEXT. WE INTEND TO TAKE SOUNDINGS WITH NON-PARTICIPANTS ONLY AFTER PRELIMINARY REACTIONS ARE
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IN FROM ALLIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED (GREECE, TURKEY, ITALY, PORTUGAL, UK, FRG AND BELGIUM).

2. IMMEDIATE RESPONSE OF ALL THOSE CONTACTED WAS TO REFER THE DISPLAY DETERMINATION QUESTION TO CAPITALS FOR GUIDANCE WITH PROMISES TO GET BACK TO US PROMPTLY. LUNS' CHEF DE CABINET SAID HE BELIEVED THE SYG WOULD

FAVOR INVITING SPANISH OBSERVERS TO THE EXERCISE.

3. SEVERAL INCLUDING UK DCM AND FRG AND BELGIAN POLADS INDICATED THEIR PERSONAL BELIEFS THAT THE QUESTION EVENTUALLY SHOULD BE PUT FORWARD MORE FORMALLY FOR NATO APPROVAL, IF ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF A PERMREPS LUNCH.

4. UK DCM CHECKED WITH LONDON AT THE WORKING LEVEL. HE BELIEVES HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD SUPPORT AN INVITATION TO SPANISH OBSERVERS IF THE QUESTION WERE FORMALLY PUT TO THEM AS LONG AS IT: (A) DID NOT LEAD TO THE EXCLUSION OF GIBRALTAR FROM FUTURE NATO EXERCISES; (B) DID NOT LEAD TO AUTOMATIC INCLUSION OF SPANISH OBSERVERS IN FUTURE EXERCISES; (C) CREATED NO SECURITY PROBLEMS; AND (D) WOULD RESULT IN SPANISH ACCEPTANCE OF THE INVITATION. HE TELLS US, HOWEVER, THAT THE ITALIAN DELEGATION EXPRESSED STRONG PRIVATE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL AND EXPECTS ROME TO FOLLOW SUIT. (ITALIANS HAD NOT EXPRESSED THIS REACTION TO US.)

5. BELGIAN DELEGATION BELIEVES GOB'S REACTION IS PROBABLY GOING TO BE NEGATIVE WITH REGARD TO DISPLAY DETERMINATION AND RED TORNADO. BELGIAN POLAD ECHOED ESTIMATE OF FRG POLAD THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD HESITATE TO GO BEYOND CSCE RELATED INVITATIONS TO MULTINATIONAL EXERCISES.

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6. WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE MOST INITIAL REACTIONS BY SEPTEMBER 12. AT THAT TIME WE WILL JUDGE WHETHER WE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTINUE SOUNDINGS WITH THOSE ALLIES NOT DIRECTLY PARTICIPATING IN DISPLAY DETERMINATION. AT THIS POINT, WE DO NOT SEE ANYTHING TO BE GAINED BY RAISING THE ISSUE IN EVEN AS INFORMAL A FORUM AS THE PERMREPS LUNCH, ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT COMPLETELY DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF IT BEING RAISED BY OTHERS.

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